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The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit herewith the report of Switzerland on consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 22 May 2012

United Nations Secretariat
New York

Report of Switzerland on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Switzerland has the privilege of acting as the host country to 24 international organizations that have concluded headquarters agreements, including eight organizations that are part of the United Nations system. One hundred sixty-eight foreign States are represented within these organizations, and the city of Geneva alone is home to over 243 missions, representations and delegations. This represents a total community of some 40,000 people.

Incidents

Switzerland takes very seriously its duty to protect and provide security for missions and international organizations. The overall situation in Switzerland can be considered safe, despite an increase in property violations. Such violations have also affected the property of permanent missions and international organizations and members of their staff. Cases of assault causing bodily harm remain very rare. In all cases, the Police and the Public Prosecutor have taken appropriate action on incidents that have been reported to them.

Surveillance and protection system

The relevant host country authorities pay close attention to the security needs of diplomatic missions and representatives, and those of international organizations. They take appropriate security measures when circumstances dictate. The Federal Security Service is responsible for performing risk analyses and determining the measures to be taken. The cantonal police then implement the measures recommended by the Federal Security Service.

As host city to 24 international organizations and over 243 missions, representations and delegations, Geneva has an international security police force that is assigned specifically to surveillance of diplomatic sites. At police headquarters, the diplomatic unit, which can be contacted around the clock, responds to security-related requests from permanent missions and international organizations.

Furthermore, the Geneva police have considerable experience in dealing with the many demonstrations that take place on the margins of international meetings and conferences. When required, they strengthen the police presence at the diplomatic venues involved and, in the event of a disturbance of the peace at a diplomatic mission, they take action. They also use new technologies to enhance security at certain diplomatic sites through the installation of surveillance cameras.

Switzerland fully finances enhanced external protection at the premises of international organizations located in its territory, mainly through the implementation of architectonic measures

(such as security barriers and anti-vehicle bollards), to ensure that those international organizations are able to meet the headquarters minimum operating security standards (H-MOSS).